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Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 LONDON 10383 231041Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----------055668 231412Z /40
R 231012Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5442
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMCONSUL BELIZE
AMEMBASSY MEXICO

S E C R E T LONDON 10383

EXDIS FOR THE SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PBOR, UK' GT, BH
SUBJECT: LETTER TO FOREIGN SECRETARY OWEN

REF: LONDON 144622

1. EMBOFF DELIVERED SECRETARY.S LETTER (REFTEL) TO SECRETARY OWEN.S PRIVATE SECRETARY, EWEN FERGUSSON. THE AFTERNOON OF JUNE 22. FERGUSSON EXPRESSED OWEN.S APPRECIATION FOR SECRETARY.S CONTINUED INTEREST IN BELIZE ISSUE AND HIS PROMPT ATTENTION TO IT. AFTER SCANNING THE LETTER. FERGUSSON SOMEWHAT DRYLY OBSERVED THAT US POSITION ON BELIZE SHOWED REMARKABLE CONSISTENCY THROUGH THE CHANGE IN ADMINISTRATION. HE THEN FOCUSSED ON THE OBSERVATION THAT "AN EMBITTERED, REVANCHIST GUATEMALA WOULD CERTAINLY NOT BE THE MOST NOBLE BIRTHRIGHT FOR BELIZE". NOTING THAT THE SECRETARY WAS "RIGHT ON THE MARK". THE OTHER KEY PROBLEM' HE SAID, WAS GETTING PRICE AND THE BELIZIANS TO ACCEPT A CESSION OF TERRITORY. REITERATING OWEN.S THANKS FOR THE SECRETARY.S ASSISTANCE. FERGUSSON SAID HE THOUGHT OWEN WOULD
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SHORTLY BE IN TOUCH WITH THE SECRETARY ON THIS MATTER.

2. EMBOFF LATER DISCUSSED THE SUBSTANCE OF REFTEL WITH WORKING LEVEL FCO OFFICIAL WHO, WHILE STRESSING THAT HE WAS SPEAKING IN A PERSONAL CAPACITY, MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:
-- HMG HAD HOPED FOR A SIGNIFICANT SHIFT IN THE

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USG POSITION AND THEREFORE WOULD PROBABLY BE DISAP-
POINTED WITH THE CONSISTENCY OF OUR POLICY;
-- THE LIKELIHOOD OF PERSUADING PRICE TO ACCEPT ANY
KIND OF TERRITORIAL CESSION (E.G. MOHO RIVER) HAD DE-
CREASED SHARPLY AS INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT FOR THE
BELIZIAN OOSITION HAD INCREASED. THE CARIBBEAN AND
COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES WOULD ALSO OBJECT TO PRESSURE
BY HMG TO FORCE PRICE TO AGREE TO CEDE PART OF BELIZE'S
TERRITORY TO THE GUATEMALANS.

-- HMG WOULD NOT WELCOME A MAJOR MEDIATION EFFORT
BECAUSE IT WOULD MERELY CAUSE THE ISSUE TO DRAG ON
WITHOUT OFFERING ANY REAL PROSPECT OF SOLUTION; AND

-- ARBITRATION DID NOT SEEM TO BE A WORKABLE ALTER-
NATIVE BECAUSE PRICE (AND OTHERS) WOULD FEAR THAT THE
ULTIMATE AWARD WOULD INVOLVE SOME KIND OF TERRITORIAL
SETTLEMENT. THUS, WHILE HMG MIGHT OTHERWISE BE WILLING
TO ACCEPT THIS OPTION, PRICE WOULD NOT, AND HMG
PROBABLY COULD NOT PERSUADE HIM TO CHANGE.

BREWSTER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 23-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
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Disposition Reason:
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ISecure: 1
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Line Count: 82
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Litigation Codes:
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Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
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Review Release Date: n/a
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SAS ID: 2051206
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Subject: LETTER TO FOREIGN SECRETARY OWEN
TAGS: PBOR, PSDC, UK, GT, BH, US, (VANCE, CYRUS R), (OWEN, DAVID A L)
To: STATE
Type: TE
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